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CURRENT COMMENT

BY FREDERIC HEATH.

Civilization will never be worthy of the name until the people produce for use instead of for profit.

Capitalism can stand the conviction of the New York police crooks. What does it care? It can breed plenty of aroused interest in Socialism if it is but fair that a Socialist paper should complete the job!

Throwing into prison, a fool one at that, the miners' angel, Mother Jones, does not help the case of the mine lords; it makes their case worse in the eyes of public opinion. Every act of this sort simply hastens the day when the people will step in and take back their mines. Our sated capitalists are only in possession on sufferance, at best, the people are educating toward the day when they will take back their own, and the worst thing about it for the robbers in control is that they will take them back legally.

W. J. Ghent, of the National Socialist, has been compelled by Illinois to remove to Arizona for the good effect of the climate. He will not drop his Socialist literary work, but may even increase it.

The other day Daniel W. Hoan, Socialist city attorney of Milwaukee, appeared before the U. S. supreme court to argue a measure in which his city is interested. He may not have been the first Socialist to appear before that tribunal, but he certainly was the first Socialist city attorney to appear.

The following is a good passage to run under the nose of the smarthy who tries to tell his fellow churchmen that Socialism will abolish the right of private conscience. It is from Bebel's book, "Women and Socialism": "As with the state, so it will be with religion. It will not be abolished. God will not be dethroned; people will not be 'robbed of their faith,' as all the foolish arguments are worded that are directed against theistic Socialists."

The writer was one of the judges in an inter-state normal school debate the other day. It was closely contested and difficult to decide. The contestants were all utter strangers to the judges, but after the debate one of the best speakers on the side that won shook hands and turning his cap showed a Socialist button, at the same time saying, "I am pleased to meet you, comrade." And he was the only Socialist in the six. I suspect, either I want to say that capitalism is going to prove a mighty hard time suppressing the Socialists for you did them everywhere you turn.

Jersey City has finally voted to have the commission form of government. A victory for capitalism and right Capitalism and its reformers want no democratic government, they want government in few hands—it is easier to buy up or control a few, or to get a few chosen who have capitalist inclinations, than to try to handle a large body of representatives. The commission form is the most dangerous blow at popular government that can well be struck. It will behave well at first, but in time will produce the worst of scalds. The people might as well turn their government over to the interests and be done with it.

Los Angeles people are enjoying the folly of the nonpartisan ballot in their primaries. The Socialist candidates and the "business" candidates are all in a scramble on the ballot and the voter must try to remember all the names he wishes to vote for and hoot them out in the short time allowed for voting. The purpose of the ballot is to hide principles and make people vote for men instead. And yet that has been just the trouble in America—a politics that the people have been voting for unprincipled men and getting unprincipled government as a consequence. A principled man and unprincipled government means capitalist rule. So you can see there is a good deal of method in the non-partisan fad.

Down in Gary, Ind., the workers celebrated May day with a procession and decorated the Socialist headquarters. They hung out the American flag and the flag of labor, the red flag. But the red banner happened to be placed higher up on the building than the American flag, which led a contemptible specimen of a police official to roughly tear it down, in order to get the applause of the predatory class. Now the cause of humanity will not halt a moment when a piece of cloth that was red in color was torn down because it happened to prove a red rag to a "bull," but nevertheless the incident shows to what uses "patriotism" is being put by the robbers, and to what "bravery" it tempts the law's "representatives."

And now comes the information that The Common Cause, an anti-Socialist magazine has given up its little ghost and will lie about us no more. The game is playing out. It is playing

on his employer for ten cents, or taking fifteen cents out of his employer's cash drawer and giving it to the woman? Haywood might argue that the actual labor value of the can is not more than ten cents, but in as much as the groceryman has sold other cans above that labor value, there is, therefore, no reason why the least said in the fight. Apart from this what an opening is here given for the corruption of the employees of one employer by a competing employer! All for the sake of substituting a twenty-five cent can of vegetables for a ten cent can! Here, indeed, is the ideal way to bring about the co-operative commonwealth!

Another brilliant example cited by Haywood is that of employees in a cannery who practice sabotage on the employer by putting a twenty-five cent label on a can of salmon containing the least desirable parts, while on the other hand a can containing the most desirable parts is marked ten cents. How is this for a revolutionary weapon? Why vote if the co-operative commonwealth can be brought about by changing the labels on the cans? What more "direct" way can any one suggest to change the system? Of course, the brilliant Haywood never considered that the employer, who

generates character, evinces its inherent hatred of those who stand for political action by a glaring front page cartoon representing the hand of the master class with four parrots perched upon it, labeled Hillquit, Berger, Ameringer, and Gompers. It is a good cartoon for the membership of the Socialist movement to look at, since it is the bony bones of the bovines of the sabotage organ, of which the paper is a fitting organ. But the cartoon lacks point and should be re-

vised. The master class fears political and military and has men in readiness when the direct actionists go far enough to make their use popular. Gompers as an opponent of the Socialist party should remain in the cartoon, but the other three should be replaced by birds labeled with the names of the bony bones of the bunnies. It would be a really good cartoon then, because a cartoon to have any merit must present

verities—not representations that are palpably false.

It is a long established ethical proposition that an evil act reacts upon the evildoer, that a person who does a mean act toward another is himself the most injured. He injures his own character, his own self-respect, his own nature. One mean act makes the next one easier. The next one prepares the way for still others until the willingness to do evil has stamped it

into one's character, to the character's great injury. This law of nature enters into the direct action, sabotage plan of campaign. A man who will do an ignoble act, who will trick his boss by below-the-belt methods will soon have a sneaking, treacherous, criminal character and be no ornament to the brotherhood of man nor doing evil in his mates. The whole *aberratio mentis* is essentially criminal, and hence, by the law referred to, is bound to develop criminal acts into the nature of the employing it. Our L. W. W. friends, willing to cheat the masses instead of making an upright fight, soon come to be careless with funds—the leaders, of course, I mean—and never make accountings, for accountings in such cases are embarrassing. The professionals taking part in "free speech" fights not only steal from their own cause, but sabotage it as well, simply playing the losers while their fellow supporters support them. We hear mighty little good of them.

Daniel DeLeon is still trying to gull his dupes over the voting machines in Milwaukee and the veto of his remnant. Under the law in Wisconsin a party that has secured legal standing by showing a large enough vote has an entire row across at the voting machine, with a big lever at the beginning of the row by which a voter may vote the entire ticket at once instead of pulling down the individual levers over each name that he wishes to vote for—the ballot arranged so that he can skip names if he wish and "split" to others in the other party row. Down below the rows given to the legal parties there is the row devoted to "individual nominations," a row made up of such nominees as are put forward by groups lacking party standing or by whatever other agencies. The big lever on this row is supposed to be locked, since the row does not represent a party slate or ticket but may consist of the candidates of varying interests. Thus the S. L. P. and the Prohibitionists, both lacked legal standing as parties and both made nominations that would all go in together, hit or miss, probably by alphabetical arrangement, in the individual nomination row—or rows, if more than one is needed. Manifestly the big lever on such rows should be locked, thus forcing the voter to indicate his choice in detail, since otherwise he might pull the big lever and vote for a line of mixed S. L. P. men, Prohibitionists and Independents, when he would have no reason to vote such a jumble, especially if he wished to vote Prohibition or to vote S. L. P. Therefore Danny's plaint, to anyone who is informed, sounds childish—or tricky. He thinks the Social-Democrats framed something up against him, or pretends to think so, and yet this locking of the independent lever would really help his voters to keep straight.

Democracy is the anonymous tyranny—more terrible, more vindictive, more vengeful than any absolute monarchy. Democracy is the divinization of Opinion, and Opinion is always a Caligula. The crowd is the hydra that the Strong Man, the Superior Man must either slay or cajole—or be slain by it. There is no incompetency like the incompetency of the majority. The great masses of mankind have not even risen to the level of being good servants. They have never learned the first step that points to dominion—service. Born to be graceless flunkies, the People aspire to Olympus. Holding within themselves the seed of every tyranny, every absurdity, every hypocrisy, every diabolism, every form of slavery, they seek, by amalgamating and closer herding, the miracle of transfiguration. Bottom believes that million million Bottoms will make him one of the elect. *Vox populi, vox dei!*—was there ever a greater libel on the Lord?

These are the real opinions of you, Comrade, entertained by capitalists and their flunkies. Once in awhile some of these aristocrats get half drunk and openly speak what they secretly believe.

Democracy has a real fight on its hands. Its greatest task is to educate the workers to a sense of their own powers, physical mental and moral. The Socialist press must be kept going to inspire all the people with that greatest of all personal and social virtues—self respect.

The Milwaukee Leader is doing a big work in Milwaukee. It intends to do a bigger work. At the present, The Leader is threatened by a deficit which must be taken care of. This deficit is a menace to the greatest Socialist newspaper in the world.

The comrades of Milwaukee ask you to help them overcome this exasperating load. They do not ask for loans or gifts. They ask you to subscribe for Leader 6 per cent interest-bearing Income Bonds. The Leader is already paying for itself. If this deficit were taken care of The Leader could be a source of profit to the entire Socialist movement within a year. Leader Income Bonds will be a source of profit to you and also a source of keen satisfaction in the future.

You can subscribe for one five dollar bond, and pay at the rate

THE MOB.

Capitalist apologists frequently refer to the people as the mob. An American cardinal recently used the term in describing the mass of citizens. Martin W. Littleton, a New York congressman and anti-Socialist, recently delivered himself thus: "Our more intelligent citizens are not honest with the average man, because we do not tell him as we ought, that his prime need is constant and congenial employment, and nothing else. The average man should be told the view of Hamilton that the government should be run by the intellectual members of the community, who alone are capable of ruling."

Here's another gem from a capitalist apologist:

"Democracy is the anonymous tyranny—more terrible, more vindictive, more vengeful than any absolute monarchy. Democracy is the divinization of Opinion, and Opinion is always a Caligula. The crowd is the hydra that the Strong Man, the Superior Man must either slay or cajole—or be slain by it. There is no incompetency like the incompetency of the majority. The great masses of mankind have not even risen to the level of being good servants. They have never learned the first step that points to dominion—service. Born to be graceless flunkies, the People aspire to Olympus. Holding within themselves the seed of every tyranny, every absurdity, every hypocrisy, every diabolism, every form of slavery, they seek, by amalgamating and closer herding, the miracle of transfiguration. Bottom believes that million million Bottoms will make him one of the elect. *Vox populi, vox dei!*—was there ever a greater libel on the Lord?"

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THE SABOTAGE TACTICS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED AS ANARCHISTIC

Ralph Horneid writes The Herald from California as follows:

Wm. D. Haywood has been touring Arizona and California under the auspices of the I. W. W. everywhere preaching sabotage in violation of the party constitution.

When talking sabotage Haywood starts out by saying that he is going to show the audience what sabotage means by citing a few examples, and that before he gets through every one in the audience who has the cause of the workingclass at heart will believe in sabotage. The examples cited by him were given to me by members of the I. W. W. I had the opportunity to corroborate them many times so I know that I am not misquoting Haywood in any essential.

One example of sabotage given is that of a grocery-clerk giving a poor woman a twenty-five cent can of vegetables, or package of breakfast food, for ten cents. According to Haywood this is a form of sabotage that every well-wisher of the workingclass movement should encourage and approve of. I would like to ask Haywood what difference there is between an employee giving a poor woman a twenty-five cent can of vegetables belonging

to his employer for ten cents, or taking fifteen cents out of his employer's cash drawer and giving it to the woman? Haywood might argue that the actual labor value of the can is not more than ten cents, but in as much as the groceryman has sold other cans above that labor value, there is, therefore, no reason why the least said in the fight. Apart from this what an opening is here given for the corruption of the employees of one employer by a competing employer!

Again it is not more than likely that after having once developed the habit, the saboteur will take money belonging to his own organization? I have been informed by one of the principal leaders of the San Diego free speech fight, an one time member of the I. W. W., that this was their actual experience with many I. W. W. in San Diego, many of whom could not be

trusted with the taking up of a collection for their own free speech fight, or with the selling of books at meetings. Some of the money would stick to their fingers. Many of them did not hesitate to commit sabotage on their own organization by allowing themselves to be supported without giving the least said in the fight. Apart from this what an opening is here given for the corruption of the employees of one employer by a competing employer!

Another brilliant example cited by Haywood is that of employees in a cannery who practice sabotage on the employer by putting a twenty-five cent label on a can of salmon containing the least desirable parts, while on the other hand a can containing the most desirable parts is marked ten cents. How is this for a revolutionary weapon? Why vote if the co-operative commonwealth can be brought about by changing the labels on the cans? What more "direct" way can any one suggest to change the system? Of course, the brilliant Haywood never considered that the employer, who

soon or later is bound to discover the practice, will in self-defense put suspicion among them and destroying working class solidarity!

But the most remarkable example given by this apostle of the New Marxism (according to La Monte), is that of workingmen working in a government powder mill and leaving out one of the ingredients, thus making the powder non-explosive. I would like to ask Haywood whether it is not more than likely that after the grocery-clerk has reached a few times into the employer's cash drawer to give money to some poor woman, he will some day reach into his employer's cash drawer to take money for himself i. e. practice the individual expropriation and sneak thievery that many members of the I. W. W. seem to believe in and which the I. W. W. glorifies in their official song book? Again it is not more than likely that after having once developed the habit, the saboteur will take money belonging to his own organization? I have been informed by one of the principal leaders of the San Diego free speech fight, an one time member of the I. W. W., that this was their actual experience with many I. W. W. in San Diego, many of whom could not be

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The trouble with our simple-minded friends of the I. W. W. is that they assume ideal conditions for the practice of their idiotic tactics and feel angry with anybody who ventures to suggest that such ideal conditions are not going to exist. They assume that the capitalists are going to sit still and will allow themselves to be hemmed in over, and over, and over again, and that would not submit its explosives to even more minute tests if it had the least suspicion that it had any saboteurs in its employ?

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THERE WILL BE A NEW STANDARD FOR JUDGMENT

The part that the judiciary is playing in our affairs has just begun to dawn upon the American people.

From the very beginning of the republic, the judiciary was made a fetish, first by the slave owners, and then by our capitalistic lords and masters.

When the Republican party was born in protest against slavery the charge was brought against it that it had attacked the judiciary.

No greater impiety could be conceived than to lay sacrilegious hands upon the palladium of our liberties. It was an offense for which to find a parallel we must return to pagan Rome and its vestal virgins.

When the Democrats in 1896 under the inspiration of John P. Altgeld dared to question the wisdom and sanctity of the supreme court, they led many citizens to fear for the safety of the country lest some great calamity or affliction should befall it.

There has, however, never been any doubt in the minds of the courts themselves as to the part that they have been playing.

Time and time again there has issued from the bench warning or protest against the assumption of power by the judiciary. In the case of the State of Wisconsin vs. Frear, Justice Timlin took occasion to say:

It may be that in the march of progress and the evolution of governments the change in the plan of our government created or confirmed by the decision herein is inevitable. But the progress and I think not through timidity, the steady progress of this court always in the direction of grasping more power. This will establish the judiciary as a political branch of the government and displace it from that place of dignified impartiality which it has so long and so successfully filled. THIS EXTENSION OF POWER IS THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS ALWAYS RESULTED IN THE WRECK OF HUMAN INSTITUTIONS.

Let us inquire in whose interest this power has been exercised:

IT HAPPENED IN MILWAUKEE

The Legislature

Postal-Democrats in State Legislature. Senator Gabriel Zophy, Assemblyman Carl Minkley, Edward J. H. Viat, William Martin, Gorcki, J. H. Viat, William Smith, Capt. J. Larson, Marinette.

Where Responsibility Ends

MADISON, Wis., April 30.—In his argument before the senate committee on corporations for his bill which would consolidate the water department and the sewerage department of Milwaukee, Assemblyman Minkley declared that the responsibility of the water department did not end when it furnished at cost all the water that is needed to supply the users. "The department is more responsible for the quality of the water," said Minkley. "To deliver impure water to the users at any cost is a criminal neglect of duty. I urge that the consideration of quality should take precedence over price; that for all purposes, unless it be for protection and power, the purity of the water is perhaps the greatest factor in municipal sanitation for which the department is responsible. The fact that sewerage is the greatest menace to the water supply is too obvious to require discussion."

The action followed that of the common council of Cleveland, Ohio, which sent a communication to the Milwaukee common council urging it to act on a resolution for government ownership of the telephones and telegraph and urging congress to pass the necessary laws under which the government can take over the present telephone and telegraph systems of the country.

The action followed that of the common council of Cleveland, Ohio, which sent a communication to the Milwaukee common council urging it to act on a resolution for government ownership of the telephones and telegraph. The finance committee of the council sent it on to the council without recommendation of any kind.

Alf. Krzycki, Social-Democrat, supported the proposition in the committee room and led the fight for its adoption in the council.

Dave Rose Back.

When "Dave" Rose, one of Milwaukee's best known former mayors, majestically breezed into the meeting of the common council Monday afternoon, the most patriotic of the "non-partisan" aldermen fell over each other in their efforts to grasp him by the hand.

Among those who forgot the deliberations of the council to the extent of rushing from their seats to flock about "Dave" were Aldermen Cochrane, Fass, Gumi, Wittig, Mlehrants, Greda, Greene, Meyer, Weil, Koerner, and Sacerdineki.

"Dave" was an astute as of expert, wearing his dignified facial expression and an ivory topped cane. He seated himself at the press table, after greeting the reporters. The first question he directed at the reporters was, "How many Socialists are there in the council?" Then he launched into a denunciation of the native sons of California. "There's nothing to California now," said "Dave."

(SEE PAGE 4)

OUR YOUNG FOLKS

derstand what Mr. Jenkins meant?" "Yes, dad," replied the boy. "I think you have made plain the 'incentive argument,' but why do you illustrate the division of fish at the ratio of one to five?"

"Because," said his father, "the ceasus reparation of the United States shows that annual earnings of the workers in this country is \$2,451,000,000, or \$6.87 a day. They are paid an average wage of \$1.40. Therefore the worker gets only about one dollar of each six dollars he produces. Five of these dollars go to the speculating class known as capitalists. Now, Socialists admit that brains should receive just compensation as well as hands for useful service, but the exploiters of labor are not teachers, nor ministers, physicians, artists, musicians, editors nor investors. They are speculators-harpoons, "financiers" whose work consists in getting property for which they render no equivalent. They are those who reap where they do not sow."

"But," asked Billy, "do not some of these capitalists own the machines, such as the steel mills, locomotive works, etc., and should they not receive good rentals for their use?"

"Yes," said Mr. Jones, "that class of capitalists, as distinguished from the purely speculating kind of capitalists, should be well compensated, but even though they ought to receive, he said, they water their stocks to the amount of millions of millions, and crowd down the wages of their employees so that they may reap high dividends on these mountains of watered or falsified stocks. But even they who own the machines came into possession of them by unfair even though not unlawful methods. They are not skilled steel workers. They invent no machinery. They due out of the mines no ores of iron or brass, or tin or coal. They formed or shaped no tools; they build no locomotives or looms or printing presses or farm machinery. They are skilled workmen only in watering stocks, cornering food-stuffs and promoting sharp schemes to fish from honest industry colossal riches for which they return no equivalent. Tommy Astor did have a legal ownership to the fishing rod, but from the viewpoint of right and justice, he had no real ownership in it because he never returned to its makers any value for the property. He got the tackle for nothing and then demanded five-sixths of the fish caught by it."

"All of the captains of industry of the sort I

have named might tomorrow be dropped into mid-ocean, and still, all the railroads required to construct every labor machine in existence would still be with us, and civilization would not be retarded an hour. If there should be a great cataclysm of nature and the steamships and steel works and cotton mills and all other machines were destroyed, and the people were not killed, who would replace all these things necessary to carry on civilization? Would it be the Wall Street stock watering interests? Well, hardly! Not one of them could make a bob-sled, raise a turnip or manufacture a single useful implement or machine. They are the slaves of the machine, and should be bridled."

"Socialism says incentives properly directed is good, is necessary, but when it prompts selfish, greedy men to concoct schemes through which they can amass great fortunes without returning an equivalent therefore; when it drives them to corner the food-stuffs of a nation, forcing millions of people into poverty, dividing the people into two classes—one class fabulously rich, the other class distressingly poor; then such distorted incentives become dangerous and should be bridled."

"Socialism would not destroy nor check the normal healthy incentive of anybody, but on the contrary, would stimulate it in everybody."

"The fear of some timid people that under

no one now contends that prior to the civil war the federal judiciary served any master other than the slave power. There is denial that the judiciary is now engaged in serving the dominant power of capitalism, as the slave owners denied that the courts were their creatures when the Dred Scott decision brought the judiciary into public contempt, but the relation is the same.

Capitalism is the dominant force in our civilization. The capitalistic concept determines the attitude of the courts. None of us can wholly escape from our environment and its influences. The Socialist alone is seeking to escape—seeking to be free. The Socialist alone challenges capitalism and its institutions and questions the sanctity of its idols.

Socialist legislators, Socialist executives, Socialist judges will give a changed interpretation to events and a new concept to the state and its functions.

The law will cease to be an expression of capitalism's desires. The courts will see the worker in his stature as a man and not as a serf whose "rights" are determined by his master's necessities.

The wedge has been entered. Capitalism's resistance is being weakened.

Every blow struck now will have the force of a dozen blows when its power shall have been broken.

We shall elect Social-Democratic judges in Milwaukee.

There will be Socialist governors, Socialist legislators, Socialist senators, and then a Socialist president.

The concept will change—it is changing. The Milwaukee Leader.

road commission's findings in the 3-cent fare case, giving Milwaukee an additional ride for \$1, before the state supreme court here. Mr. Homan held that the state has a right to regulate the fares of The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light company under the police powers of the state.

"At the present time the company has the right to sell tickets 25 for a dollar, and the railroad commission ordered that, which is reasonable to sell 25 for a dollar," said Mr. Homan. "In other words, the company claims to have a contract right to claim what the rate commission says is an unreasonable rate. My position is that the city never had any power to contract with the company to charge what is admitted to be an unreasonable street car fare and therefore, if there is a contract, it is void.

As to Labor Injunctions.

MADISON, Wis., April 29.—Assemblyman Douglas Anderson, who ably defended Assemblyman Kiefer's bill, which limits the power of the court in issuing restraining orders and injunctions in labor disputes, and was instrumental in the passage of the bill by the lower house, appeared before the senate judiciary committee Tuesday afternoon and opposed Thomas J. Neary, Clark Rosencrans, attorney for the street car company, and Chester Barnes, representing Kenosha manufacturers, in their attempt to have the bill killed.

Bouquet for Minkley.

MADISON, Wis., April 29.—W. J. Anderson, legislative correspondent for the Milwaukee Free Press, is a Milwaukee as the nifty Socialist who has never been sued bills for himself and for others from indefinite postponement by characteristic speeches.

"The assembly always gives attention when either Minkley or Viat speak," he says, "because when they take the floor, they always have something to say and they say it."

No County Non-Part.

MADISON, Wis., May 2.—There will be no "non-partisan" county election in Milwaukee county. The bill introduced by Assemblyman T. A. Mankley, providing for non-partisanship in elections, was indefinitely postponed by the assembly on Thursday with other bills. Mr. Mankley made another attempt to save the bill for the reason that he was informed by the source close to Gov. McGovern that the governor would veto it.

LA CROSSE.

LA CROSSE, Wisconsin.—Social-Democrats of this city held a meeting

on May 1—Milwaukee may acquire and operate an ice plant and furnish ice to the poor at a nominal cost if it chooses.

The Gorecki bill, providing that

ice of the first class may purchase, acquire and operate plants for manufacturing or selling ice, was passed by the senate this morning by a vote of 18 to 8.

There was no debate on the bill. Senator Zophy made a statement saying that the measure required a two-thirds vote of the council before such a municipal plant could be built, and for that reason the senate need not fear that a majority could force the erection of such a plant.

Factory Fitted and factory fitted right.

MADISON, Wis., April 29.—Assemblyman Douglas Anderson, who ably defended Assemblyman Kiefer's bill, which limits the power of the court in issuing restraining orders and injunctions in labor disputes, and was instrumental in the passage of the bill by the lower house, appeared before the senate judiciary committee Tuesday afternoon and opposed Thomas J. Neary, Clark Rosencrans, attorney for the street car company, and Chester Barnes, representing Kenosha manufacturers, in their attempt to have the bill killed.

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